

Partnerships That Work

Dallas Region

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Job Corps Participates In The Annual Groundhog Job Shadow Day

In 1997, the National Groundhog Job Shadow Coalition was formed with the intent of introducing America's youth to the workplace. Since then, the national event has given young people the opportunity to see what skills and knowledge are necessary to succeed in today's competitive job market. Last year, more than a million young people and 75,000 businesses across the continental U.S. participated. This year once again, Job Corps participated in the National Groundhog Job Shadow Day.

Each center in the Dallas Region held their own Groundhog Job Shadow Day on February 2, 2001, which assists not only the Job Corps student, but also promotes the success of the Job Corps program. With the increased awareness of Job Corps, more and more employers expressed interest in partnering with Job Corps to provide them with skilled, knowledgeable, and competent employees.

David L. Carrasco Job Corps

One hundred students and twenty-one local businesses participated in the annual Groundhog Job Shadow Day.

Many of these employers are participants in the center's Work-Based Learning program. These employers included Antec Electronic Manufacturing, Autozone, AY Automotive, CarQuest, the Hoy-Fox Automotive Group, and the Sears Roebuck Service Center. Food Service students "shadowed" chefs at the Camino Real Hotel and the Holiday Inn Airport, while welding students worked with welders at AC Welding and Lowenberg Fabrication. Health Occupations and Rehabilitation Technician students were assigned to Providence Hospital and Rio Vista Rehabilitation Hospital.

Other shadow sites were International Wire, Keats Southwest Limited, Pa-Ted Spring Company, Praxair, Singer Data Products, Spectrum Imaging Systems, and St. Anne's Center, Wells Industries, and the Yazaki North American Company.

Twenty-five Automotive Repair Tech-

nician students spent the day at the U.S. Army motor pool at Fort Bliss, and seven students who expressed an interest in a career in the military, worked at a U.S. Navy Recruiting Station.

Center Director Mary S. Young said, "Groundhog Job Shadow Day is an excellent opportunity for our students to experience the world of work. We are grateful to the employers who are willing to work with us in this effort."



Working together are Alicia Canales (left), Judith Hernandez and Remos Lovett at Singer Data Products company in El Paso, TX.

Guthrie Job Corps

Groundhog Shadow Day was indeed successful for Guthrie Job Corps Center. Over 27 local and distant employers participated in the day's event. Over 70 trainees took advantage of this opportunity and shadowed a variety of employers ranging from Veterinarians, RNs, the City Manager, Police Officers, Firemen, and the Department of Corrections. One student even got to meet Oklahoma Senator Inhofe! "We have created several new linkages during the course of this event and even received requests from employers for the trainees to come back and shadow them on a frequent basis," said Mark Silvers, Business Community Liaison.

Laredo Job Corps

Twenty-eight students at the Laredo Job Corps Center shadowed work mentors from six different businesses in the Laredo area including Sames Auto Dealership, KGNS TV 8, Laredo Health Department, U.S. Customs, U.S. Marshall's Office, and La Posada

Hotel/Suites. The day's most exciting event occurred at U.S. Customs. Nine students shadowed the customs officers inspecting each car in line to cross the bridge from Mexico to the United States and got to witness an actual drug bust. While customs officers conducted a routine inspection accompanied by K-9 drug sniffing dogs, a Labrador retriever alerted its customs partner of a vehicle containing drugs. This left the shadowing students in awe with the work the K-9 dogs perform.

North Texas Job Corps

Through efforts coordinated by Ms. Sandra Herndon, Business and Community Liaison, students were given the opportunity to recognize the importance of experiencing the workplace firsthand through mentoring and job shadowing. Various trades participated in the Job Shadow Day, which included Accounting, Clerical, Health Occupations, Painting, Carpentry, Building and Apartment Maintenance, Security, and Plumbing.

The overwhelming show of support for this event received from the McKinney community was a crucial step in building the link between successful learning and productive citizenship. Several local businesses and organizations participated, including the Chamber, Golden Corral, *The Power Pages News*, Jurak Remodeling, and the Sherman Police Department. Many expressed an interest in building on the relationships that began with this event.

Roswell Job Corps

The Roswell Job Corps Center had a successful Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Our students shadowed at sites such as Nova Bus, Cable One, Red Lobster, Christmas by Krebs, Holloway Construction, *The Roswell Daily Record* (newspaper), Sunset Villa Care, and KBIM Television, to name a few. At the end of the day, three of the students were offered paid School-To-Work Jobs. One of the students was part of the local newscast and placed on television.

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Job Corps News

Gary Groundhog Job Shadowing Day

Several major businesses in the Austin/San Marcos area helped make Groundhog Job Shadowing Day a success for Gary Job Corps students! Following is a brief list of some of the businesses in attendance.

The Connection Group

This Austin Temp-to-hire Agency was interested in finding students to fill clerical, data entry, and receptionist positions. "Job Corps students are great for these type of jobs," says Stephanie L. Putnik, Regional Recruiter for The Connection Group. "The students here gather general, basic skills that enable them to work in an office." Gary students are taught the skills necessary to make them perfect candidates for each of these positions.

Dell

Dell Computers, already a major supporter of Gary Job Corps, currently employ 50 students in entry level manufacturing positions. Dell transports the students to the Round Rock location daily as part of the partnership agreement with Gary. In March of 2001, Dell will hire approximately 150 students for the assembly positions and are planning on hiring an even larger number in July. "We're looking at a long, prosperous relationship with Gary," relates Sandra Zelmanski, Client Service Manager for Dell. "Gary students have good work ethics," she adds. Dell also provides Gary J.C. with feedback on the students' work performance, which enhances the program. After Job Corps students graduate, Dell welcomes them to apply to the company for a permanent position.

Navy

The Navy Recruiting Station in San Marcos has long recruited at Gary Job Corps, and Groundhog Job Shadowing Day was an excellent opportunity for them to reach another group of prospective students. James D. Gipson, ET1(SS), USN, says Job Corps students do much better in 'boot camp' than others because they are already used to routine and discipline they receive through Job Corps.

Army

Mark Heath, Corporal, and Rodolfo Rico, Sergeant First Class of the U.S. Army Field Recruiters in San Marcos, let Job Corps students know that they can receive up to \$20,000 for merely signing up! The Army can also provide up to \$50,000 for College, something all students should seriously consider. "Job Corps students can go far in the Army," proclaims Corporal Mark Heath. "We've signed up three students in the last six months and look forward to recruiting even more here today!"



Coleen Masterson, Capital of Texas Workforce Center gives Desiree Wey, Gary JC student some information on what services TWC can provide.

Texas Workforce Commission

Coleen Masterson was on hand to represent the Capital of Texas Workforce Centers in Austin, TX. "Our job is to find you a job!" is the company's motto, and they offer job postings & referrals, resume assistance, and internet access as part of their services. Students can post their resumes for employers to review on the Texas Workforce Commission's web site www.texasworkforce.org. TWC makes it easy for employers to view the skills and qualifications of each candidate, and even provide areas for interviews.

Westaff

The Westaff Company out of Austin, TX, let students know they are offering customer service positions. Jennifer Bone, staffing coordinator, feels that this is a fantastic place

for Gary Job Corps students to work, and hopes many students will join their team.

Peak Performers

This Austin Company was interested in hiring Job Corps students as Data Entry Operators, Administrative Assistants, Secretaries, and General Clerks. Peak Performers is a non-profit employment agency specializing in helping people with ADA disabilities (and others) find temporary administrative and clerical jobs in government agencies. Mary Louise Long, Recruiter, finds that Job Corps students do quite well in these positions.

Helen Guidry, Manager, Work Place Readiness for Gary Job Corps, is an avid enthusiast for the National Groundhog Ground Shadowing Day event. "This is an excellent opportunity for our students to get a close up look at some of the career options available to them!" There are currently over 150 students participating in various job shadowing opportunities with partners in Austin, San Marcos, and San Antonio, and Helen is always searching for ways to strengthen the existing partnerships as well as searching for new ones.

Every student in attendance received a National Groundhog Ground Shadowing Day shirt. "This is great!" says Gary student Travis Williams. "Job Corps events such as these really help us decide which path to follow following graduation."



Helen Guidry, Manager Work Place Readiness, and Pablo Ortiz, Gary JC student deem National Groundhog Ground Shadowing Day a success!

Job Corps News



A Win-Win Situation!

"It's a win-win situation for us and for the Job Corps," said Don Poling, Service Director for the Hoy-Fox Toyota Dealership in El Paso, Texas, when asked why he hires Job Corps students. He further explained, "They are young and have no bad habits so it is easier to train them to our standards." Poling, whose dealership is located next to the David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center, has been hiring Automotive Repair Technician graduates for the past three years.

Gus Rodriguez, Jr., whose family business is Basil Glass, Inc., which has been hiring Job Corps students for ten years, concurred with Poling, and added, "The main reason we hire Job Corps students is because of the training they have received. It helps us because we don't have to work with them as much as we normally do with other incoming employees." Both men agreed that Job Corps completers are more

productive employees because of the work ethics and values they were taught while students in the Job Corps program.

Rodriguez, who is president of the center's Industry Council, credits the council for ensuring that the Job Corps program continues to maintain quality-training stan-

dards. He stated, "We are the 'ears' for the Job Corps Center out in the community. We have information that we report to the Job Corps to help improve the training courses that are already in place." Hoy-Fox's Poling (also a member of the Industry Council) stated, "Our purpose is to try and guide Job Corps administrators and let them know what is in and what is out, and what is needed for today's technology."

Rodriguez, who works closely with the Career Development staff at the center, feels that this relationship contributes to the successful placement of the transitioning student. He stated, "Many times staff will visit Basil Glass to discuss how well the students are doing since completing the program. They listen and implement our recommendations. This has led to a very successful Job Corps training program from which we all benefit."



David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center graduate Francisco Cardenas posed with his supervisors Alma and Gus Rodriguez, Sr., Owners of Basil Glass, Inc.



Career Development Services System New Partnerships...

Regional

Guthrie JCC Makes Linkage With Wyndham Hotels

Nikki McMurray, Employer Developer for Guthrie Job Corps, made a successful linkage with Wyndham Anatole Hotel in Dallas. "We can utilize 10 of our 13 trades at this site," said McMurray.

Wyndham Anatole Hotel currently has 216 openings and Guthrie JCC is currently making the necessary arrangements to fill some of those vacancies.

Gary Job Corps and Dell Computer



Gary Job Corps students employed by Dell Computer

The Gary Job Corps Community, in cooperation with Dell Computer, has employed 48 Gary students as part of the Work Based Learning System. Under the leadership of Helen Guidry, Work Place Readiness Manager, and Theodore Miller, Work Based Learning Specialist, the exporting of training is an integral part of the total training package, which also includes the vocational, academic, and employability skills. Currently, over 15 sites are being utilized, such as Texas Parks and Wildlife, Austin, and The Industrial Company, San Marcos.

Job Corps Works!!!!



Dallas Region

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Shreveport Job Corps

The Shreveport Job Corps Center contacted twenty employers throughout the Shreveport/Bossier City area. These employers graciously agreed to allow our students to come into their workplace and shadow their employees for the day. Participating employers included the Mayors from Shreveport and Bossier City, Shreveport Police and Fire Departments, MINACT's Corporate Office, the Department of Labor Regional Office, and the JACs Dallas Office. Students also received experience in local casinos, including Harrah's, Hollywood, Horseshoe, Isle of Capri, and Casino Magic. Rounding out our list of employers are our local country clubs, including the University Club, Southern Trace and the Petroleum Club. Students learned a variety of skills from each and every participating employer.



Student Employees (L to R) Broderick Summage, Genita Foster, Vantresa Johnson and William Suggs pose with a representative from Shreveport FD Station #8

Talking Leaves Job Corps

The members of Talking Leaves Com-

munity Relations Partners welcomed our twenty-five participating students into their businesses for a day of fun and learning. Trainees participated in areas ranging from Stock Clerks to Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Talking Leaves' trainees were fortunate in obtaining another future job site for our Work-Based Learning program. By participating in Groundhog Job Shadow, we connected with Yates Auto Mall, who will now become a partner in our WBL program.



Student Steven Steward poses with the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, Chad Smith.

Treasure Lake Job Corps

126 Treasure Lake students participated in the National Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Staff assisted by developing sites and transporting students to their assigned areas. 36 employers in Lawton provided job-shadowing sites for our students. The Center approached its participation in the national event as a cooperative team effort.

We tried to match students with vocation-related shadowing sites. They saw their

future jobs from a totally different perspective. A lot of workplaces introduced them to new and exciting technology. Even some of our instructors picked up new ideas and learned new things! With the cooperation of 21 Center employees who served as workplace mentors, our Groundhog Job Shadow Day turned out to be a great success, because the whole Center came together as a team.

Tulsa Job Corps

Tulsa Job Corps Center had another great year of participation in National Groundhog Job Shadowing Day. 154 students were selected to work with 32 employers in their chosen vocational choices or areas of interest. Tulsa JCC had the opportunity to work with KJMM-Fresh Jams 105.3 (local radio station), The City of Tulsa, Tulsa Fire Department, and *T.V. Guide*. Tulsa JCC students explored different aspects of employment and were given professional employment tips on time management, how to work smarter, and the importance of the "first impression." The work sites chosen were in conjunction with the center's Industry Advisory Council and Community Relations Council.

Tulsa JCC Security student, Simon Casteel, received media coverage from the *Tulsa World Newspaper* (local newspaper), while job shadowing with the Tulsa Fire Department's Chief of Administrative Services.

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